

[0183] FIG. 49 illustrates an exemplary method for changing the topography of a user interface based on a location of a touch event according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 49, a determination can be made about whether an input has been received (491). The input can be from a user of a touch sensitive device. For example, the user can input a request to form a particular user interface. The input can also be a touch or near touch on the user interface surface. The input can also be from an application running on the device. For example, a telephone application running on the device can input a command to form a telephone user interface. The input can also be from the device itself. For example, upon powering up, a device can input a command to form a user interface for that particular device type.

[0184] Based on the input, a user interface state can be obtained for a user interface surface having a plurality of nodes with at least touch sensing and shape changeable capabilities (493). For example, if a user, an application, or a device inputs a request for a user interface surface that physically alters based on a location of a touch or near touch, the user interface state can be obtained, indicating that a user interface alterable by a touch event should be formed.

[0185] A determination can be made about whether a touch event has been detected (495). The touch event can be either a touch or a near touch on the user interface surface.

[0186] Upon detection of the touch event and its location on the user interface surface, the surface can physically alter at that location from a first physical layout to a second physical layout, where each layout can represent a mode of an electronic device (497). For example, as a touch or near touch occurs at a location on the surface, that location can raise or lower to form the second physical layout, depending on the needs of the device. As the touch or near touch moves away from the location, that location can return to its original position to form the first physical layout, depending on the needs of the device.

[0187] FIG. 50 illustrates an exemplary display device having a user interface that can change topography according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 50, display device 500 can include translucent stretchable membrane 503 disposed over display 502, which can be in turn disposed on changeable nodes 501, which can be activated to raise or lower the display.

[0188] FIG. 51 illustrates an exemplary display device having a user interface that can change topography by raising a display screen according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 51, changeable nodes 511 can be stimulated to raise display 512. Upon raising, the display 512 can push against translucent stretchable membrane 513, causing the membrane to stretch and thin out at section 513-a. As the membrane thins out, it can become more transparent, making display 512 easier to view.

[0189] In some embodiments, the changeable nodes 501, 511 can be electromechanical devices. In some embodiments, the changeable nodes can be shape changeable material. In some embodiments, the changeable nodes can be stimulated to a user interface state that can include display viewing. In some embodiments, the membrane can be somewhat opaque in its nominal state and translucent or transparent in its stretched state.

[0190] FIG. 52 illustrates an exemplary user interface that can change topography according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 52, user interface 520 can include shape changeable user interface surface 521 having

transparent or semi transparent flexible outer membrane 523 and shape changeable nodes 522, transparent or semi transparent touch sensing nodes 525, and display nodes 526. The flexible outer membrane 523 can form the touchable surface of the user interface of a touch sensitive device and can be expanded or retracted as the underlying shape changeable nodes 522 are altered, thereby changing the topography at the user interface surface 521. The membrane 523 can be elastic, silicone, rubber, soft plastic, or any material that can stretch under force and return to normal when the force is removed.

[0191] The touch sensing nodes 525 can be disposed adjacent to the shape changeable nodes 522 on an undersurface of the membrane 523, where the undersurface can be opposite the touchable surface. The touch sensing nodes 525 can detect a touch or near touch on the surface of the membrane 523. As shown in FIG. 52, the touch sensing nodes 525 can be positioned alternately with the shape changeable nodes 522. Alternatively, the touch sensing nodes 525 can be positioned between every two or more shape changeable nodes 522 or vice versa, depending on the needs of the user interface 520.

[0192] The display nodes 526 can be disposed adjacent to the shape changeable nodes 522 and the touch sensing nodes 525. The display nodes 526 can display user interface elements viewable through the membrane 523. As shown in FIG. 52, the display nodes 526 can be aligned with the touch sensing nodes 525. Alternatively, the display nodes 526 can be aligned with two or more touch sensing nodes 525 or vice versa and/or aligned with shape changeable nodes 522, depending on the needs of the user interface 520.

[0193] In some embodiments, the touch region and the shape changeable regions can substantially coincide. In some embodiments, the shape changeable regions can be positioned within the touch region, being either the same size as the touch region, smaller, or larger.

[0194] FIG. 53 illustrates an exemplary computing system that can include one or more of the embodiments of the invention described herein. In the example of FIG. 53, computing system 530 can include one or more panel processors 531 and peripherals 532, and panel subsystem 533. Peripherals 532 can include, but are not limited to, random access memory (RAM) or other types of memory or storage, watchdog timers and the like. Panel subsystem 533 can include, but is not limited to, one or more sense channels 533-a, channel scan logic (analog or digital) 533-b and driver logic (analog or digital) 533-c. Channel scan logic 533-b can access RAM 533-f, autonomously read data from sense channels 533-a and provide control for the sense channels. In addition, channel scan logic 533-b can control driver logic 533-c to generate stimulation signals 533-d at various phases that can be simultaneously applied to drive lines of touch sensor panel 534. Panel subsystem 533 can operate at a low digital logic voltage level (e.g. 1.7 to 3.3V). Driver logic 533-c can generate a supply voltage greater than the digital logic level supply voltages by cascading two charge storage devices, e.g., capacitors, together to form charge pump 533-e. Charge pump 533-e can be used to generate stimulation signals 533-d that can have amplitudes of about twice the digital logic level supply voltages (e.g. 3.4 to 6.6V). Although FIG. 53 shows charge pump 533-e separate from driver logic 533-c, the charge pump can be part of the driver logic. In some embodiments, panel subsystem 533, panel processor 531 and peripherals 532 can be integrated into a single application specific integrated circuit (ASIC).